

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Final Official Action dated December 27, 2005. In this Amendment, claims 24-50 are canceled, claim 51 is amended and claims 52-54 are unchanged. Following entry of this amendment, claims 51-55 shall be pending. Moreover, this Amendment removes all outstanding issues and places the application into condition for allowance. Hence, entry of this Amendment is proper.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 51-55 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In an effort solely to expedite prosecution of this Application, the Applicant has amended claim 51 to include the language of claim 37, its base claim. It is now believed that the grounds for the objection of claims 51-55 have been removed. Accordingly, the Applicant requests allowance of claims 51-55.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. SECTION 102

Claims 24, 25, 37, 38, 43, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,152,920 to Thompson et al. (*The Thompson Patent*). In an effort solely to expedite prosecution of this Application, the Applicant has canceled these claims. However, the Applicant reserves the right to prosecute these canceled claims and their subject matter in a later continuation of the present Application.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. SECTION 103

Claims 26-30, 39, 41-42 and 45-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being obvious by *The Thompson Patent* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,558,382 to Jahns et al. (*The Jahns Patent*). In an effort solely to expedite prosecution of this Application, the Applicant has canceled these claims. However, the Applicant reserves the right to prosecute these canceled claims and their subject matter in a later continuation of the present Application.

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III. AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 24C. Previously, this Figure was labeled 24B but has been amended to now correctly read 24C. It is believed that no new matter has been added with this amendment.

CONCLUSION

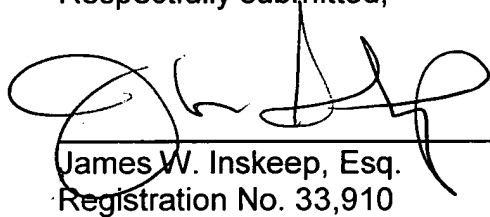
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that pending claims 51-55 are now in condition for allowance. Hence, entry of this Amendment and an indication of allowability is hereby requested.

If for any reason direct communication with Applicants' attorney would serve to advance prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is cordially urged to call the undersigned attorney at the below listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 50-2809.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 24C. Previously, this Figure was labeled 24B but has been amended to now correctly read 24C. It is believed that no new matter has been added with this amendment.